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(b) whether copies of them will be placed on the table?

A.—The correspondence is confidential.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the correspondence is confidential only at this stage, or it is confidential all through?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The Government consider that such correspondence should always be treated as confidential."

Mr. G. R. PREMAYYA:—"Why should there be any confidential correspondence? Local self-governing bodies are democratic bodies?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"This correspondence is confidential because it contains the personal views of the presidents of district boards."

Irrigation

Damage to the Raja Vaikal channel since the construction of the Mettur dam.

* 429 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Raja Vaikal channel branching from Jadarpalayam in Namakkal taluk of Salem district has been a perennial one ever since it was constructed, unlike Kalingarayan channel in Erode taluk or any other channel;

(b) whether the Government have taken any expert opinion whether the flow in the Cauvery channel regulated by Korambu system in Namakkal taluk is increased or continued for longer period than before;

(c) if so, whether a copy of such opinion obtained will be placed on the table;

(d) how often since the construction of the Mettur dam the Korambu has given way and how many days the water dried up in the channel; and

(e) on what basis or on what statistics the Government issued G.O. No. 736, Revenue, dated 12th April 1934?

A.—(a) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested.

(b) & (c) The Engineers of the Government reported that the Cauvery-Mettur Project would assure a steadier and better supply to the channel than it was receiving prior to the construction of the Project when it was wholly dependent on rainfall and the condition of the river. The Government do not consider it necessary to place the reports on the table of the House.

(d) The Government have no information.

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(e) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clause (d) of question No. 426 at the meeting of the Council held on 22nd January 1935.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" The answer says that 'the Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested'. Will they enquire into the matter and find out what the facts are?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I do not think so, Sir."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I ask, Sir, what difficulty there is; because the Government will be in a better position to find the actual state of things?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I think it is best we take the present conditions as they are now."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" Arising out of the answer to clauses (b) and (c), may I ask, Sir, whether the river dried up ever at that point and consequently there was scarcity of water in the channel?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" At what time, when."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" Before the construction of the Mettur Dam. I want to know whether the river failed to supply water at that point where the korambu is constructed?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" Does the hon. Member mean since the Mettur Dam was constructed, or when."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" Before the Mettur Dam was constructed?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I have no information."

Public Service

Proposal to raise the age-limit of minority communities for recruitment to gazetted posts.

* 430 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. RAJAGOPAL PILLAI: With reference to his reply to question No. 189 answered on 9th August 1935, will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any decision has since been arrived at with regard to the raising of the age-limit of minority communities for gazetted appointments; and

(b) if the reply to clause (a) is in the affirmative, what the age limit so fixed is?

A.—The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—" May I know for how long the matter will be under consideration?"